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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/988,161	11/19/2001	Ko Kambayashi	122.1274C	8262

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EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/988,161

Applicant(s)

KAMBAYASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7 and 9-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7 and 9-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7,10.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 2, 4-5, 9-10, 13, 15-16, 18-19, 22 and 24 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 2, line 1; claim 13, lines 2 and 3; and claim 22, line 1, "the fastener unit" should be changed – each of the pair of fasteners --.

Claim 4, line 2; claim 5, line 2; claim 15, line 2; claim 16, line 2; and claim 24, line 1, "each said fastener" should be changed – each of said pair of fasteners --.

Claim 9, line 2; claim 10, line 2; claim 18, line 2; and claim 19, line 2, "each fastening shaft" should be changed – each of said fastening shafts --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 3, 12, 14, 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Herron et al. (5,030,128).

Herron et al., figures 3, 5 and 32-34, disclose
an electronic (12) comprising:

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- a connector housing having a surface (32) defining a width of the housing and a height corresponding to a thickness of the housing, and
- a common connector (140) disposed in the surface ; and

a docking module (18 which read on a detachable connector unit) for an electronic apparatus (12) comprising:

- a metallic casing (283 which read on a housing) having front and rear surfaces and a height no greater than a thickness of the electronic apparatus,
- a plurality of first connectors (figure 33) accessible at the rear surface of the housing and detachably to respective peripheral unit,
- a second connector (figure 32) mounted on the front surface of the housing, and detachable connectable to a third connector (figure 5) mounted on a rear surface of the electronic apparatus. The second connector aligned with the third connector and moving the housing in a direction toward the rear surface of the electronic housing, and
- a pair of fasteners (300) incorporated in the connector unit with the first connector arranged therebetween, operable independently of each other to detachably fix the detachable connector unit to the electronic apparatus, the length of the housing with the fasteners being substantially equal to the overall length of the detachable connector unit. The pair of fastener mounted in the vicinity of respective, spaced end walls of the detachable connector unit and each having an operating outwardly from a corresponding recess (A, attachment) in the respective end wall.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 4-5, 7, 9-11, 13, 15-20, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herron et al. (5,030,128) in view of Ichikawa et al. (5,647,758).

Regarding claims 2, 4, 7, 13, 15, 17, 22 and 24, Herron et al. disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for each of the fasteners comprising a threaded shaft/fastener shaft projecting outwardly from a frontal surface of the detachable connector unit.

Ichikawa et al., figure 1, disclose an electrical connector assembly having an engagement pins (6) with a threaded portion (13), which read on each of the fasteners comprising a threaded shaft/fastener shaft. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Herron et al. to have the engagement pins with a threaded portion, as taught by Ichikawa et al., in order to have more security, better alignment between the plug and receptacle connectors.

Regarding claims 5 and 16, it is noted that Ichikawa et al., figure 1, disclose each the fastener further comprises a fastener housing connected to the connector unit. The fastener housing having an interior and a coil spring (10) within the interior urging the threaded shaft outwardly from the frontal surface of the detachable connector unit.

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Regarding claims 9 and 18, it is noted that Ichikawa et al., figure 1, disclose each the fastening shaft has a screw thread on at least a first portion projecting from the front surface of the housing and an integral second portion extending into the fastener unit. The fastening unit receives the second portion of the fastening shaft, resiliently biasing same to normally project from the front surface of the housing and to be retracted within a limited extent of axial movement of the fastening shaft (column 3, line 58 – column 4, line 5)

Regarding claims 10 and 19, it is noted that Ichikawa et al. disclose the fastening shaft has an engagement pin collar (8 which read on an enlarged disk) disposed thereon. The enlarged disk has a diameter greater than the diameter of the shaft and disposed to render an accurate portion of the disk accessible through an opening in an end wall of the housing for manual rotation by an operator.

Regarding claims 11 and 20, it is noted that Ichikawa et al. discloses each mating fastener is a mating, female threaded unit (16) receiving the threaded end of the fastening shaft.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5, 7 and 9-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is (703) 306-5711. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (703) 308-2710. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

Any correspondence to this action may be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


For additional information regarding this new address, which was effective May 1, 2003, see Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003).

Or faxed to: 703-308-7722 or 308-7724 (informal or draft communications should be clearly labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Crystal Plaza 4, Fourth Floor (receptionist)
2201 South Clark Place, Arlington, Virginia

TL.


JAVAID H. NASRI
PRIMARY EXAMINER